



Awards Banquet

MANITOBA COOPERATIVE
AWARDS PROGRAM

2025 Award Recipients

Distinguished Cooperator | Sharon Alford

Cooperative Merit | Linda Nobiss Campbell

Cooperative Merit | Ken Harpelle

Cooperative Achievement | Sun Certified Builders Co-op

Youth Leadership | Co-op Youth Leadership Volunteers



Manitoba Cooperative
Association Inc.



International Year
of Cooperatives

Cooperatives Build
a Better World



Award Descriptions

DISTINGUISHED COOPERATOR

This award recognizes and honours Manitobans who have made significant contributions to the development and success of the cooperative community through long, varied and meritorious services in volunteer, elected or employed positions within cooperatives and credit unions.

This individual will have contributed to a variety of co-ops, including co-ops on the local, regional and national level. Current, former and retired employees, elected officials, volunteers and members of cooperatives and credit unions are eligible for nomination. The nominee must have lived in Manitoba and contributed to cooperatives and credit unions.

COOPERATIVE MERIT

This award recognizes and honours Manitobans who have made significant contributions to the development and success of a cooperative through service in volunteer, elected or employed positions within a single cooperative or credit union. **The contributions of this individual to their co-op have enabled their co-op to grow and thrive.** Current, former & retired employees, members, elected officials, volunteers and others who have supported the cooperative or credit union are eligible for nomination. The nominee must have lived in Manitoba.

COOPERATIVE ACHIEVEMENT

To recognize and honour cooperative organizations in Manitoba that have implemented projects and ventures that embody the cooperative values and principles and that benefit cooperative members and their communities. The achievement must be apparent within the last 10 years and have already demonstrated recognizable benefits to the members and community. Cooperative and credit unions are eligible for nomination but must be operating in Manitoba.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

The award recognizes significant contribution by young people, aged 35 and under, in cooperative endeavours. This award may also recognize the commitment and achievements of individuals or organizations in mentoring youth and supporting their successes as young cooperative leaders. Individuals, both youth and adults, and organizations are eligible for nomination. The nominee must have lived/operated in Manitoba.

Distinguished Cooperator

SHARON ALFORD



"My co-op journey has been extremely fulfilling and rewarding. Co-op values are aligned with my values."

My co-op knowledge began in Atlantic Canada, where I was born and raised, whether it be heating fuel, feed for our animals, groceries or the occasional ice cream cone from their stand.

I attended college in Nova Scotia for a BSc in Agriculture, majoring in economics. The opportunity to experience a summer exchange at the University of Manitoba brought me to Western Canada where I completed my degree and have lived since then.

Along with spending 20 years working in the financial services industry, since the mid 80's, my husband Wayne and I have farmed and operate a seed business in the Swan River Valley. We raised three wonderful daughters who understand and, where available, support co-ops in their communities.

My involvement with Swan Valley Co-op began as a member then a board director and board chair. Attending the Federated Co-operatives Ltd (FCL) annual meetings

and training sessions peaked my interest in serving and learning more. I became an FCL director, chaired various committees, served as a delegate to other organizations such as MCA, Co-operators, Co-ops and Mutuals Canada and the Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives. I was elected President/Chair of the Board of FCL in 2019 and retired in March 2025.

My co-op journey has been extremely fulfilling and rewarding. Co-op values are aligned with my values. Through my service I have had the opportunity to meet 100's of cooperators who support our model and I treasure the friends and acquaintances I have made.

It is an honour to be recognized with this award and I thank MCA, the Awards Committee and those who sponsored me.



Cooperative Merit

LINDA NOBISS CAMPBELL



“One of my proudest moments with CHF Canada was when I discovered that I was the first Indigenous woman to wear my Metis Sash at CHF’S 50th Anniversary.”

I was born and raised in Winnipeg. I have two children, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren and am member of Willow Park East Housing Co-op for over 33 years. As a member of the Board, I encourage new members to join the Board or to volunteer. I am very fortunate to live in co-op housing and even more so now that housing costs are enormous.

As the Indigenous Director of Co-operative Housing Federation, I am hoping that I opened doors to help others and to show that co-op housing can be affordable, can be the surrounding arms that are there when needed, and to show that diversity in co-ops is valued. We incorporated more Indigenous programs which included teachings, sharing and showing that there are many distinct groups of Indigenous people in Canada. One of my proudest moments with CHF Canada was when I discovered that I was the first Indigenous woman to wear my Metis Sash at CHF’S 50th Anniversary.

Through all my commitments I have met some of the most amazing people. I have worked within the justice system for over 20 years, am a Triple P Practitioner, a Commissioner of

Oaths, was nominated for Women of Distinction, and volunteer with the following:

- Created and Facilitated Networking Groups
- Wrote a booklet for the JHS of Winnipeg called Blended Families
- Chair of the North End Women’s Center / Lord Selkirk Women’s Center
- LMC Facilitating Services
- President of the Bear Clan Organization walking to make our neighbourhood safe

I am very humbled by this recognition and I would like to thank Westboine Park Housing Co-op for nominating me. Thank you to Linda Ferguson and Tammy Robinson who encouraged me to join CHF as an Indigenous Director. Lastly thank you to CHF Canada/ Tim Ross, to Haley Normand, Ursala, the maintenance crew, the members and Willow Park Board. Mequetch, Merci, Thank you.

Cooperative Merit

KEN HARPELLE



"I know many past recipients personally and have learned so much from all of them, and to have my name added to this list is truly an honour. "

My name is Ken Harpelle. I was raised on our family farm at Cypress River Manitoba. I went to school in Cypress River and graduated from Glenboro high school.

After graduating I took over the family farm and began my association with the Pool Elevator and Mariapolis Co-op. Later I became a board member of the Mariapolis Co-op, which later amalgamated with St. Leon Co-op to form Pembina Co-op. There I served for 27 years, many as vice-chair of the board. I was also a member of the resolution committee of Federated Co-op for 7 years where I sat as vice-chair for several years.

Locally, I was on our church board and agricultural society many years as chair. My wife Agnes and I raised 3 beautiful daughters and farmed grain and cattle until our retirement. We are still very active in our community. We love to travel in the winter and raise a large garden in the summer. We donate much of the proceeds of our garden to Cancer Care and Stars Air Ambulance Service here in Manitoba. We have always been strong supporters of Co-ops whether our local Co-op or others in different communities.

It is a great honour to be nominated for this award by the board of Pembina Co-op. I know many past recipients personally and have learned so much from all of them, and to have my name added to this list is truly an honour.



Cooperative Achievement

SUN CERTIFIED BUILDERS CO-OP



SUN CERTIFIED BUILDERS
COOPERATIVE LIMITED

“Over a decade ago in June 2012, Sun Certified was incorporated as the first Multi-stakeholder Co-op in Manitoba.”

Sun Certified Builders Co-op is a multi-stakeholder co-op with worker and supporting members. Their focus is on energy efficient construction practices and reducing carbon emissions through intentional use of building science and sustainable materials. Their newest innovation is a high-performance prefabricated wall system designed for Manitoba's challenging climate.

Over a decade ago in June 2012, Sun Certified was incorporated as the first Multi-stakeholder Co-op in Manitoba. Two years later in December, Sun Certified completed their first Deep Energy retrofit, the “Duvet House” project, and three years after that their first high-performance new build. Expanding on these successes, Sun Certified completed construction in 2019 of a test facility near Riding Mountain to begin prefabricating wall panels for new construction projects. Shortly after their ten year anniversary, the Co-Op had its most successful year-to-date with revenues over \$1.2 million and two new home builds completed in 2023. This led quickly to the purchase of “The Fort” at 210 Dufferin Avenue, Winnipeg in May of 2024, to serve as their new wall factory and head office. Their most recent achievements in 2025 have been adding employee health benefits, increasing member diversity to 44% representation of equity denied groups, and the first package of prefabricated walls manufactured at the new facility for a high-performance build North of Winnipeg.

Youth Leadership

CO-OP YOUTH LEADERSHIP VOLUNTEERS



“Without volunteers from across Manitoba the [Manitoba Cooperative Youth Leadership] program would not be possible.”

The Manitoba Cooperative Youth Leadership Program (CY Program) was launched in 1985. Adapted from the Saskatchewan Co-op Youth Camp, the CY Program started as a 3-day retreat for high school students from across Manitoba to come together develop their leadership skills and to connect and learn about cooperatives and the important role they play in our communities.

Over the years the CY program has relied upon hundreds of volunteers who contributed their time as staff-members and facilitators for the program. These volunteers were employees or board members of Manitoba cooperatives or they were past participants of the program. Without volunteers from across Manitoba the CY program would not be possible.

While the CY Program started as a 3-day retreat offered in October, over the years the program has been offered on a number of different weekends throughout the year. Most recently, the CY Program has been adapted into an Intro to CY program that can be delivered as a one-day session in any high school in the province. The CY Program is currently at a critical juncture, the program requires a significant investment of time and resources in order to be able to continue delivering valuable youth programming for Manitoba youth and the Manitoba cooperative community needs to show their support and invest in this program.

The CY Program has adapted and changed over the years, but one thing remains the same, the commitment of the CY volunteers to delivering valuable leadership and co-op education to high school students across Manitoba. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered for the CY Program, from 1985 to present day, your contributions have been of utmost importance to the CY Program and the Manitoba cooperative community.

Past Recipients

DISTINGUISHED COOPERATORS

2024

Jocelyn
Vankoughnet

2023

Doug Wiebe

2022

Linda Ferguson

2019

Mary Nirlungayuk

2018

Dale Ward

2016

Norval Lee

2015

Richard Lemoing

2014

Allan Morin
Ken Jenner

2012

Barry Gosnell

2011

Wayne McLeod

2010

John Sandborn

2009

Allen Merritt
Mel Willis

2007

Stan Scarr

2006

Glen Shellborn

2005

Glen Tully
Manfred Homann

2004

Walter Arndt
David Hughes
Donald Joseph
Pavelick

Maurice Therrien
Kai Winther

2003

Harold Foster
Gordon Maxwell
Sinclair
Wasył Topolnicki
John Mathias Lee

2002

Jacob Redekop
Jocelyn Peifer

2001

Edwin Meyer
Ken Edie
Bill Halpenny

2000

Barry Durston
Wilfred Harder
Charles Swanson

1999

Lorne Robson
Charles Williams

1998

Edward Braun
Paul Hacault

1997

Harvey Fulton
Roy Kilburn
Erdman (Ed) Klassen
D. Mac MacNabb

1996

George Klassen
Jack Martin

1995

Theodore Breuer
Wes Hosler
Glenora Slimmon
William Strath

1994

David Day
Maurice Gauthier
Hugh McMullan
Harry Peters
Lorne Strandberg

1993

Les Brown
Lloyd Steen
Henry Wiebe

1992

Rudy Comeault
Andre Goussaert
Raynald Labossiere
Raymond Siemens

1991

Andrij Kachor
Ronald King
Denis Maynard

1990

Monsignor Belanger
James Deveson
Alexander Runciman
Oli Sigurdson
Donald Slimmon

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

2022 Credit Union Young Leaders of Manitoba

2018 The Wasagaming Foundation

2018 La Coop Vélo-Cité

2017 Stingers Credit Union

2012 Natural Cycle Courier

2010 Evan Bowness

2008 War on Music Worker Co-op

2006 Casera Credit Union

COOPERATIVE MERIT

2023

Eva Cameron
Allen Friesen

2022

Dale Pouteau

2020

Gary Epler
Sandra Hardy

2019

Ernest Fraser

2018

Menno Plett

2016

Harvey Douglas
Robert Smith

2015

Ivan Sabesky

2013

Peter Vandermeulen

2012

Chris Dzisiak

2011

Marcel Daeninck

2010

David Kerr
Greg More

2009

Sandy Francis
Harold Stitt

2008

Judy Bewer
Rodney Crampton
Eric B. Irwin
Remi Tack

2007

Laurent Hacault
Marvin King
George Rideout
Emmanuel
VanDeVelde

2006

Calvin Shermerhorn

2004

John Castle
Elaine Clarke
Wayne Hacking
Eleanor Weedmark

2003

Peter Russell Jeffrey
Norma Jean McEwen
Kenneth Rogers
Nicholas Huminicki
Gary Cooper
Arlene Perry

COOPERATIVE ACHIEVEMENT

2024 Eadha Bakery Worker Co-op

2024 Peg City Car Co-op

2023 ANAK Publishing Worker Cooperative Ltd.

2022 Westman Communications Group

2020 Fireweed Food Co-op

2017 DSI Tandem Co-op Resources Ltd.

2016 Western Manitoba Seniors
Non-Profit Housing Inc.

2015 Pembina Consumers Co-op 2000 Limited

2013 Urban Eatin' Gardeners Worker Coop

2012 Red River Co-operative Limited

2011 Assiniboine Credit Union Limited

2006 Nor'West Co-op Community Health Centre

2005 Winnipeg Beach Art + Culture Co-op

2004 Assiniboine Credit Union Limited

2004 Birchwood Funeral Chapel

2003 Transcona Credit Union Limited

2001 Brandon Seniors for Seniors Co-op Inc.

1998 Winkler Consumers Cooperative Limited

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Fuelling Your Community

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Arctic
Co-operatives
Limited



Swan Valley



Pembina





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